MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 17 AND 18, 1933

The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1934, was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18, 1933. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Savage,
and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meetings held October 6 and 7, 1933, and October 14, 1933, were approved.

2. ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN: On motion unanimously adopted the members of the Commission elected Mr. Egerton Swartwout Vice Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts.

3. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission the set of blueprints received from Mr. W. N. Janson, clerk of the building committee, for a Second Baptist Church building to be erected at 17th and East Capitol Streets. The Secretary stated that Mr. Janson desired the advice of the Commission as to the plans. The architects, Speiden and Speiden, who prepared the plans, are now dead but the Church committee desired to proceed with the building, which is to cost about $100,000. Mr. Janson had said the plans were drawn to be in harmony with the design of the Eastern High School, which is opposite their building location. The design showed a church of brick with limestone trim.

Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells inspected the plans and after consideration disapproved them. They stated that a building constructed in accordance with these plans would result in a very bad looking structure and that it would pay the committee to appoint a new architect and draw up a new set of plans.

The Commission concurred in the criticism of the architect members of the Commission as to the plans, disapproving them, and sent a report to Mr. Janson accordingly. Also Mr. Janson was informed as to the status of the project to widen East Capitol Street, concerning which he desired information. (Exhibit A)

4. CERES RESTAURANT SIGN: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission an application for a sign to be erected over the windows of the Ceres Restaurant at 1309 E Street, N. W. The sign is to be 19' x 2'8". The Secretary stated that there has been some controversy as to this sign and that a certain attorney had threatened to contest the authority of the Commission to advise as to signs along E Street. The Commission concluded that the application having been received from the Building Inspector's office, it could logically be assumed that the location comes within the Shipstead-Luce Act area and that accordingly the sign should not exceed 25 square feet in area. A report limiting the size of the sign to 25 square feet was sent to the Building Inspector.

5. DESIGNS FOR NEW BRIDGES, ROCK CREEK PARK: The Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations submitted designs for five new bridges to be built in Rock Creek park. These were carefully considered by the Commission and the recommendations made were embodied in a report which was sent to the Director of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. (Exhibit B)

6. PLANS FOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY: The Secretary reported that the architect of Howard University had submitted photographs of new buildings to be erected at Howard University as part of the Public Works Program. The new buildings are to be the library building, a chemical laboratory building, a classroom building and a new power plant. The Howard University grounds comprise 55 acres and there will ultimately be 30 buildings on the campus. About a half dozen of the existing buildings are to remain.

The photographs indicated that the new buildings were to be designed in the Georgian type of architecture. This was considered satisfactory to the Commission. As for the designs of the library building, the Secretary stated that the officials of Howard University had decided to submit the drawings for the new building to their building committee before submitting them to the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Moore stated that within the past two weeks he had received a letter from Mr. George W. Crawford, Chairman of the Building Committee, raising the question as to whether a new architect should be appointed to prepare plans for the buildings. Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Albert I. Cassell, the architect for the University, had been making plans for university buildings for years and that his work had proved to be very satisfactory to the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission concurred in the opinion of Mr. Moore that since Mr. Cassell has been making satisfactory designs and has done preliminary work on drawings for the new building, it is unnecessary to place the work in the hands of another architect.

7. OSCAR STRAUS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN AND THE GREAT PLAZA: The Secretary placed before the Commission the following letter received from Mr. Daniel P. Higgins of the office of John Russell Pope, regarding the status of the Oscar

Straus Memorial:

November 13th, 1933.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Dept. Building
Washington, D. C.

RE: STRAUS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

We have received your letter of November 8th on the subject of The Straus Memorial Fountain. We have not made complete working drawings of this project, but have made preliminary drawings at 3/4" scale which could in a very short time be turned into working drawings. We estimate that complete plans and specifications could be completed within four weeks should no difficulty develop in securing data from the Government on the location of adjacent sewer lines, etc. Bennett, Parsons & Frost are in possession of these drawings, which we are sending to you, and we understand are co-ordinating their design for the Great Plaza and the balustrade which will surround it, with the Straus Fountain.

The material for The Fountain has not been fixed, and would of course be decided in collaboration with Bennett, Parsons, & Frost. Granite has always been under consideration for the main portion of The Fountain with possibly the sculptured groups in marble.

Mr. A. A. Weinman is the sculptor of the two groups of allegorical figures on the north and south pylons, and has already erected a 3/4" scale model of the whole fountain upon which he is studying his compositions.

A brief description of the design follows:

The Memorial is in the form of a pool and fountain located at the west end of the Great Plaza. Flanking the pool are two pedestals or pylons supporting allegorical sculptural groups, the subjects of which have not as yet been definitely established.

The pool and pylons combined are about 110 feet long. The remaining 120 feet between the north and south lines of balustrade which bound the sunken portion of the Plaza are taken up with flights of steps, minor pedestals and balustrade.

Water enters the pool through lions' heads in the retaining wall between the pylons, and is supplemented by jets in the surface of the pool itself.

The sunken portion of the Plaza is five feet below the surrounding grade, and to the north and south of the pool are flights of steps connecting the two levels.

The photograph of the perspective, which you have, will, we believe, adequately describe the general design. Should you need any additional information please call upon us.

Very truly yours,

OFFICE OF JOHN RUSSELL POPE

(Signed) Daniel Paul Higgins.

Accordingly the Commission considered the question of location of the fountain in connection with plans for the Great Plaza. At the request of Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a special meeting on the subject of the Oscar Straus Memorial Fountain and the Great Plaza development was held in the office of Mr. Delano on Saturday morning, November 18. As a result of this meeting it was decided that the plans for the Great Plaza should be given thorough re-study. The conclusion was reached in particular that the long pool proposed for the center of the Great Plaza should be omitted. It was also decided that the site for the Oscar Straus Memorial along 14th Street should be put in order so that the erection of the fountain can proceed.

The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert. (Exhibit C)

Mr. Higgins' letter was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Lawrie for advice on the question raised as to the material to be used for the fountain. Mr. Lawrie said that this is a matter that had best be settled by the sculptor, Mr. Weinman, and the architect, Mr. Pope. The office of John Russell Pope was informed of this. (Exhibit C-1)

Mr. Moore subsequently called Mr. Pope on the telephone and Mr. Pope said that it might be well to arrange for a special meeting in New York City, which Mr. Bennett, the designer of the Great Plaza plan, should attend and also representatives of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

8. LEE HIGHWAY: Dr. Llewellyn Jordan of the Washington Board of Trade and Dr. Samuel Johnson, President of the Lee Highway Association, conferred with the Commission in regard to the proposed connection of the Arlington Memorial Bridge with the Lee Highway. Dr. Jordan said:

> "May I make a very brief introductory statement merely to acquaint you officially with the attitude of the Washington Board of Trade. About two and one-half years ago the Streets and Avenues Committee of the Washington Board of Trade, acting through its chairman, asked me to serve as the Chairman of the sub-committee in order that I might cooperate with Dr. S. W. Johnson, then unknown to me. Since that time I have been actively in association with him and have followed the whole project dealing with the approach from the Virginia side to the Potomac River and connecting with the Arlington Memorial Bridge. I do not feel I should trespass much on your time but the Washington Board of Trade sponsoring the northern approach has taken this position, that they are anxious that with Federal and State aid we may get the connection so long desired with the Arlington Memorial Bridge. We have purposely avoided taking sides by sponsoring one approach against another approach, it being understood that a connection on the south side of Arlington is also being considered. However, we have gone very wholeheartedly and seriously in the matter of securing the northern approach. You probably know through correspondence originating with the Washington Board of Trade it was necessary to change by legislative authority of the State of Virginia the heretofore suggested Route A to another route known as Route D. Colonel Shirley, Chief of the Highway Department of the State of Virginia, is now anxious to proceed with the construction of the roadway and is willing to build the northern route if the Bureau of Public Roads and the interested Federal Agencies, as the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, approve. We are very desirous, therefore, of getting a definite decision on the question soon."

Thereupon Dr. Jordan asked Dr. Johnson for additional statements in regard to this project. Dr. Johnson said:

"Gentlemen: I think we are very near to a solution of the seven-year problem. The Maryland and Virginia edition of the Star of November 16, 1933, carried a statement of an interview with Chairman H. G. Shirley of the Virginia Highway Commission. That report stated:

> 'When local taxpayers were unable to agree upon whether they wanted the northern or southern route, after Shirley was given the power at the recent special session of the General Assembly to build either he submitted the matter to the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture for a definite recommendation by the body.
>
> 'Shirley is now informed, he said, that survey of a substitute northern route for the one originally adopted by the State Highway Commission has been completed by the Bureau of Public Roads and that the recommendations of that body would be made this week to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.'

"This newspaper statement refers to the fact that the taxpayers of Arlington County have become restive about the long delay and are determined to get some connection with the Memorial Bridge from the west side of Fort Myer connecting with the Lee Highway. There has been a lot of discussion about a proposed connection along the south side of Arlington National Cemetery or a connection around the north side of Arlington Cemetery. As indicated in the report, authority had been granted by the General Assembly of the State of Virginia for the connection around the north side of Arlington Cemetery but as the Commission of Fine Arts wrote to the Governor of Virginia on July 29, 1933, that a new road known as Route D should be built in preference to Route A by way of the north side of Arlington Cemetery, the Virginia Legislature amended the Act so as to permit this. There is authority now to build this roadway, which would be about two miles long from Station 0 by way of the north side of Arlington Cemetery over a 200-foot right-of-way to Station 107, connecting with the Lee Highway. We desire that this route be built now since the road by way of the south side of Arlington Cemetery could be built by the Arlington County people without difficulty."

Dr. Jordan complimented the Commission of Fine Arts on the results achieved so far in the matter of the proposed roadway connection with the Lee Highway and asked if the Commission would write to the Governor of Virginia a slightly modified letter to that of July 29, which then rather emphasized the construction of the road by way of the south side of Arlington National

Cemetery and stating that the proposed connection by way of the north side of Arlington Cemetery should be built now.

On Saturday morning Mr. MacDonald, Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, Mr. Swartwout and Major Clarke were in conference with representatives of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the question of these roadway connections from the Arlington Memorial Bridge into Arlington County and connecting with the Lee Highway. The Bureau of Public Roads is now making a study of both the southern and the northern routes and is including in its study the adjustment of roadways on the east side of Arlington Cemetery thereby embodying the recommendations made by the Commission of Fine Arts as to the elimination of the "Mary Baker" road and the building of a new road along the Boundary Channel. Also the existing military road extending from the Highway Bridge to Arlington Cemetery is to be readjusted. In connection with the entire project the question of relocating the Arlington Experimental Farm is to be taken up with the Department of Agriculture.

A letter of appreciation was sent to Dr. Johnson. (Exhibit D)

9. NEW CHAIN BRIDGE: Dr. Jordan requested advice as to the status of the project for the erection of a new Chain Bridge. Dr. Jordan stated that the Committee on Roads and Bridges of the Washington Board of Trade takes up a major project each year and that this year they have selected the question of erecting a new Chain Bridge, as to the location of which the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has been consulted. The advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is desired as to the type of bridge to be built. Dr. Jordan said the existing bridge was built in 1874 and that it was pronounced unsafe by Captain Whitehurst in 1928, when some repairs were made on the piers of the

bridge. Since that time the bridge has become in need of further repair and at the present time traffic is limited to six tons across the bridge per truck. Dr. Jordan stated further that a few weeks ago the Committee on Bridges held a special meeting, which was attended by Mr. Caemmerer and by Mr. James, Chief of the Transport Division of the Bureau of Public Roads. Mr. James reported that the Bureau had made a count and found that 2,500 vehicles cross Chain Bridge every day and it was concluded that when a new bridge is built with proper highway connections on the Maryland and Virginia sides, the number of vehicles crossing the bridge would be 5,000 a day. Dr. Jordan said that his committee on bridges would not favor a low-level bridge. The question of a double-decked bridge is one to be considered by the Commission of Fine Arts. In general the committee would favor a high level bridge.

Mr. Moore stated in behalf of the Commission that the Commission of Fine Arts have been awaiting a report from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as to the exact location selected for the bridge. The Secretary thereupon stated that he had just received word from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission that the members of the Commission had made an inspection of the old bridge on November 16, and they had decided that the data available is not sufficient to come to a definite decision as to the location for the new bridge and that a committee of their Commission is to give it further study.

Dr. Jordan was given assurance that the Commission of Fine Arts would give prompt attention to the question of type of bridge as soon as the exact location for the new bridge has been determined by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

10. AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENTAL FARM, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND: The Secretary stated that Dr. E. W. Sheets, in charge of the Beltsville project for the development of the new experimental farm of the Agriculture Department had informed him that the Department had appointed Mr. A. D. Taylor as the consulting landscape architect and Mr. Delos Smith as consulting architect for the project and that he desired both of these gentlemen to confer with the Commission. The Secretary said that Mr. Taylor had just telephoned, saying that he had no plans to present at this time and wished to proceed at once to Beltsville where he had certain matters that require immediate attention but that Mr. Delos Smith could be present. In the development of the landscape plans Mr. Taylor, who is the consulting architect for the National Arboretum, will include consideration of the relocation of the Agriculture Experiment Farms near Arlington Cemetery. The Commission were pleased to hear this.

Mr. Smith in company with Dr. Paul Howe, representing the Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Commission about noon to discuss the development of the Beltsville project. Mr. Smith said he really had no report to make. The working drawings of some of the minor buildings have already been made. The material is to be stucco and also molded concrete although Mr. Smith favored brick. Certain buildings, however, are to be demonstration buildings for parts of the United States where there is no brick. One of the larger buildings costing $50,000 has been planned in cinder block and stucco; for this again Mr. Smith favored brick.

Mr. Smith suggested that all the buildings be three stories in height. Mr. Clarke thought that two and one-half stories would best suit

the topography. Mr. Howe said he believed that the buildings which are erected at Beltsville should fit the place the same as any farmer would want his buildings to fit the grounds.

Mr. Smith had some photographs of early farm buildings in Maryland, which showed what he had in mind for the buildings at Beltsville. The Commission inspected the photographs.

Mr. Clarke said he wished to emphasize the fact that this is a great opportunity to show the farmers a good example by erecting well proportioned buildings, no matter what the color. Dr. Howe said that the Agriculture Department was choosing the particular type of building because farm labor is to be used. It was pointed out that the old Maryland farm buildings were also built by farm labor. (Exhibit E) (See also E-1)

11. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORICAL BUILDINGS: The Commission received a letter from the office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, suggesting research work in connection with securing data on old historical buildings throughout the United States, this research to result in a comprehensive record of these old buildings and at the same time furnish employment to a number of architects and architectural draftsmen. (Exhibit F)

The Commission felt that this project was one which does not come under their particular jurisdiction but expressed their interest in it. The Commission called attention to the importance of placing such work in competent hands. Attention was also called to the fact that the American Institute of Architects has a special committee on the preservation of historical monuments, headed by Fiske Kimball.

A letter expressing the interest of the Commission in this matter was sent to the office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. (Exhibit F-1)

12. JUSSERAND MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore said that Cass Gilbert is the prime mover in the proposal to erect a memorial to the late Ambassador Jusserand. The association which he has organized in New York is going to ask Congress during the next session for permission to erect a memorial. Mr. Moore thought a small area in Rock Creek Park near Massachusetts Avenue would be a fine location for a sunken garden as a memorial.

13. WIDENING F STREET BETWEEN SEVENTH AND NINTH STREETS: The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission a plan which he received from Captain H. C. Whitehurst, Director of the Highway Department of the District of Columbia, proposing the widening of F Street between Seventh and Ninth Streets three and one-half feet on the north side of the street. This would involve taking out a row of oak trees and a small piece of the southeast and southwest corners of the square.

The plan was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Clarke, who suggested that the Commission inspect the site. This the Commission did on Friday afternoon. The Commission came to the conclusion that the small benefit to be derived in widening the street, only three and one-half feet, and bringing the street to the steps of the Civil Service Commission Building (old Patent Office Building) would not justify taking out the row of oak trees which are of considerable size and are growing well. However, Mr. Clarke said that there should be no objection to taking off a small corner of the square as proposed. A report was sent to Captain Whitehurst with a suggestion that the plan be given further study by the Coordinating Committee. (Exhibit G)

The Commission felt that the only way to widen the street properly would be to remodel the south side of the building.

14. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT BRIDGE: The Secretary presented a blue print received from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert of the design as finally drawn up for the single arch bridge to connect the Agriculture Administration Building with the extensible building of that Department over 3 Street South. This plan was inspected by the Commission and was regarded satisfactory. A report of approval was sent to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert accordingly. (Exhibit H)

The Secretary stated that duplicate prints had been received and sent by him to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and that he had been informed that that Commission had also approved the plan.

15. INSPECTION OF FORT HUMPHREYS: The Commission made a trip of inspection to Fort Humphreys on Friday afternoon to see the construction work under way there. Commander Schulz received the Commission and took great pleasure in showing the Commission the construction work. This included an inspection of the ruins of old Belvoir, where the grounds had been cleared along the Potomac River front so as to make the wharf of Mt. Vernon, three and one-half miles north, visible. The foundations are in good condition and it was noted that recently the foundations of additional buildings had been discovered. Commander Schulz said that the Lord Fairfax estate was without question one of the great estates of Colonial times, since Lord Fairfax controlled 6,000,000 acres in this section of the country. George Washington learned surveying on this estate.

The Commission inspected several buildings at Fort Humphreys that were in the process of erection. Commander Schulz said that as soon as funds are

made available, he would like to see a college building and additional barracks built. He said that his work at Fort Humphreys will end December 1, when he will take charge of U. S. engineer work at San Francisco and will be superseded at Fort Humphreys by Colonel George W. Spalding.

Commander Schulz presented the Commission with a small booklet that he had printed on the history of Belvoir. (Exhibit I)

16. COLUMBIA ISLAND PLAZA: On Saturday morning Mr. Clarke and Mr. Swartwout were in conference with Professor Hubbard of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as to a plan for Columbia Island Plaza. The Committee were also in conference with Mr. Moore, Mr. Frederic A. Delano, and Mr. A. B. Cammerer in regard to the matter. The conclusion was reached that the firm of McKim, Mead and White should be asked to make several sketches for Columbia Island Plaza and that as a result a plan should be designed that would be the official plan to be carried out. Mr. Moore said he would bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Kendall of the firm of McKim, Mead and White. (Exhibit J)

17. ELMS ON THE MALL: The Secretary reported that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at its meeting in October, had decided that elm trees should be planted on the Mall. (Exhibit K) (To be sent later)

18. OMISSION OF STORAGE ROOM, ROCK CREEK PARKWAY: Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, reported that he rather disapproved the construction of a separate service road to lead to the proposed store room that was to be constructed in the vacant space under the Rock Creek Parkway approach near the Lincoln Memorial Plaza. Mr. Cammerer said that the storage room was not needed. Mr. Moore expressed himself as

being highly pleased with the fact that no storage room would be constructed so near the Lincoln Memorial.

19. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY: Mr. Cammerer reported that Secretary Ikes had allotted sufficient funds to allow surveys to be made for the George Washington Memorial Parkway to Great Falls. He also stated that Secretary Ickes had endorsed the proposed new highway leading north and south through the Shenandoah National Park but had disapproved a proposed connection of that highway from the Shenandoah Park to a point near Great Falls. The Commission concluded that this connection is not urgent since the Lee Highway connection is being completed further south to connect with the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

Friday evening the Commission were the guests of Mrs. Isabelle Barrington of the Chevy Chase School for dinner.

The Commission adjourned on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p. m.

C O P Y

November 20, 1933.

My dear Mr. Janson:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts appreciated your courtesy in sending to them the plans for the Second Baptist Church, to be built at East Capitol and Seventeenth Streets, N. E. After consideration, the Commission advise that, the way being now open, your people employ an architect more familiar with modern ecclesiastical architecture than the plans indicate. The tendency today is to return to the more dignified and more church-like architecture of former days. The auditorium is no longer treated as in the theater, but rather is made to center on the pulpit by making the aisles lead directly thereto. This is especially desirable in a Baptist church, where the sermon is of chief concern. The Gothic is fitted primarily for ceremonial. The semi-circular auditorium is more fitted for the stage, and has been discarded of late. It never had good standing.

Instances of good interiors are seen in the Unitarian, the Universalist and the Christian Churches, all recent and distinguished additions to Washington ecclesiastical architecture.

EXHIBIT A

The exterior of the Second Baptist Church, as shown in the elevation, lacks simplicity, dignity and reverent feeling. The members of the Commission are confident that a much less ornate, a better proportioned front, and one less expensive can readily be designed.

Any further advice you may desire will be given gladly. The Commission feel that you have an important site on East Capitol Street and that they would be pleased to help you and at the same time help the appearance of East Capitol Street, a thoroughfare certain to be highly developed in the near future.

As for the widening of East Capitol Street, this is a matter which will require legislation by Congress in order officially to establish a new building line. The building line recommended by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts is 75 feet back from the curb (the new building line used by the Folger Shakespeare Library).

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. W. N. Janson,
National Press Building,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

November 23, 1933.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 17, 1933, considered several designs for new bridges in Rock Creek Park, which were submitted by your office, and advise as follows:

1. Saddle Club Bridle Path Bridge: This bridge (9 feet wide between rails) is to consist of a reinforced concrete arch, with masonry faced abutments and wing walls of smooth faced stone. The dimensioned masonry is to be of hammered stone from the same quarry. Local stone in character with that at Pierce's Mill was suggested and is approved.

The side forms of undressed lumber are to be radial with respect to intrados curves, leaving board markings on concrete. This will express the feeling of the arch form and give a pleasing texture. The projection on the sides of the concrete arch is to be omitted.

A rustic railing was considered. The railing should be stained a weathered gray color to harmonize with the concrete.

2. Foot Bridge above Piney Branch. This is to be a bridge of two spans, with an iron railing with masonry piers and wing walls. The Commission suggested removing the masonry piers which project above the walk surface, making the iron railing continuous. The

EXHIBIT B

railing might be terminated in a stone pier if further study should demonstrate this to be desirable. An outrigger at each post could be used appropriately to serve as a brace for the railing.

3. Zoo Ford Bridge. Foot bridge. Approved.

4. Rapids Bridge. This is to be a concrete bridge of three spans with stone faced abutments and wing walls; approved.

5. Grape Vine Bridge. This is to be a concrete bridge, single span, with stone faced abutments and wing walls. The ornaments proposed for the railing should be restudied and simplified, so as not to be conspicuous.

The Commission compliment your office on the satisfactory designs submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Parks, Buildings and Reservations,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

November 20, 1933.

My dear Mr. Robert:

A joint meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts was held on November 18, 1933. Mr. Louis Simon of the Board of Architectural Consultants was present. The members of the two Commissions agreed that a new study should be made of the plan for the great plaza east of Fourteenth Street, with a view to simplification of the plan as prepared, and consequently the larger availability of that area to the public.

Such restudy should result in a number of tentative designs which would bring up for discussion various considerations, and among them the following:

Specifically it is advised that the pool be omitted. That a grass panel be carried from the Straus Fountain to the driveway on the west of the Post Office Department. In case the central portion of the plaza shall be sunken and east and west balustrade used, the grass panel should be carried to the parapets (not over five feet high) with low planting at the borders.

Flanking this center panel of grass on each side four rows of large trees should be planted, with no defined paths, but with a floor of gravel, so as to allow free access under the trees in any direction. This would permit the placing of seats for persons who wish to rest in the shade. These rows of trees should come to the edge of the semi-circle of the Post Office Building, so as strongly to mark the dominating east and west lines. No planting should be used in the semi-circle.

For the two Commissions:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Frederic A. Delano,
Chairman,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission

(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts.

Hon. Lawrence W. Robert, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

November 20, 1933.

My dear Mr. Higgins:

I am pleased to inform you that at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on November 17, 1933, I brought your letter of November 13, and the blue prints for the Oscar Straus Memorial fountain to the attention of the Commission.

The question of material for the memorial was considered by Mr. Lawrie, who felt that it is a matter which doubtless could best be settled by Mr. Weinman in conference with Mr. Pope.

The question of erection of the fountain was considered with representatives of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, particularly with the Chairman, Mr. Frederic A. Delano, the landscape architect member, Mr. Henry V. Hubbard, and Mr. Arno B. Cammerer, Executive Officer, who is also Director of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. It was decided that effort should be put forth to provide sufficient funds for cleaning out the Great Plaza area and to make the site for the Oscar Straus Memorial fountain available so that it may be erected.

This matter was also brought to the particular attention of Mr. Louis Simon of the Supervising Architects Office. He said the Board of Architectural Consultants of the Treasury Department, of which Mr. Pope is a member, is to have a meeting in the near future and doubtless this project will come before them.

In the consideration of the memorial a number of suggestions were made with regard to the landscape plan for the Great Plaza.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. A. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Mr. Daniel P. Higgins,
Office of John Russell Pope,
542 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT C-1

COPY

November 27, 1933.

My dear Dr. Johnson:

Your work in building of the Lee Highway across the Continent during the past decade is nearing completion. It includes an entrance to the National Capital from the West connecting with the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The Commission of Fine Arts express to you their appreciation of your long and arduous labors and your sacrifice--your patriotic contribution for the benefit of the nation and its people.

With your work in connection with the Lee Highway in the far South and West the Commission is only generally familiar; but the Lee Highway as built through a considerable part of the State of Virginia, including stretches between the Shenandoah National Park and Washington, is such as to merit high commendation. One has only to see portions of the roadways before the Lee Highway was built and after its construction to recognize this real improvement.

The Lee Highway connection with the Arlington Memorial Bridge is being prepared by the Bureau of Public Roads, with the expectation that this extension will be built in the near future.

This Commission learn with satisfaction that you have also given time to a proposed inland parkway along the Atlantic Coast to connect the national parks extending from Maine to Florida. The Commission feel that this is a highly important project and trust that some arrangement can be made whereby your intelligent zeal and enthusiasm can be employed in furthering this comprehensive and stimulating project.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. Samuel M. Johnson, President,
Lee Highway Association,
1627 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

November 23, 1933.

Dear Dr. Sheets:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 17, 1933, were much pleased to hear through Mr. Caemmerer that the Department of Agriculture has appointed Mr. A. D. Taylor as the consulting landscape architect and Mr. Delos Smith as the consulting architect of the new Agriculture Experimental Farms project at Beltsville, Maryland. The Commission have confidence in the professional ability of these men for this work but will be glad to confer with them in the development of this project.

Mr. Taylor was prevented from attending the meeting as you had desired, being detained with some special work at Beltsville. However, Mr. Smith in company with Dr. Howe of your Department conferred with the Commission on the subject of buildings for the new experimental farm. The Commission are confident that Mr. Smith will proceed along right lines and will be pleased to inspect his designs which are to be submitted at future meetings of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Dr. E. W. Sheets, Chief,
Animal Husbandry Division,
Bureau of Animal Industry,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 27, 1933

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Building.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am glad to have your letter of November 9, advising us of the interest of the Fine Arts Commission in the relocation of the experiment work now conducted by this Department at Arlington Farm, Virginia. We are just completing the formulation of a definite construction and relocation program which, if it can be financed, will cover both the Arlington Farm matter and the clearing of the north end of the Mall, on Constitution Avenue, between 12th and 14th Streets, occupied at present by our shops, greenhouses, fumigation plant, quarantine inspection houses, etc. Our proposal is to relocate these activities at Beltsville, Maryland, where we are concentrating a great deal of the field work of the Department. We expect to present detailed estimates on these items to the Public Works Administration within the next few days.

Sincerely,

Secretary.

EXHIBIT E-1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

NOV 16 [illegible]

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

For your information, there is transmitted herewith a copy of a report entitled: "The Relief Employment Under the Civil Works Administration of a Substantial Number of the Architectural Profession in a Program Recording Interesting and Significant Specimens of American Architecture." This is for your confidential use only, since the Secretary of the Interior has not announced his decision on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray

A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Encl. 1

EXHIBIT F

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
EASTERN DIVISION, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1933.

Memorandum for The Director:

Subject: The Relief Employment Under the Civil Works Administration of a Substantial Number of the Architectural Profession in a Program Recording Interesting and Significant Specimens of American Architecture.

Advantages of the Plan.

Herewith is outlined a plan for you to consider as a submission to the Civil Works Administration through which one thousand or more men of architectural training could be employed for two or more months. The chief virtues of this plan as a practical relief project are that the men could go to work almost at once, and that a very minimum of equipment, supplies, and overhead is necessary. From the cultural standpoint an enormous contribution to the history and aesthetics of American life could be made. Relief would be offered to one of the professions that has suffered most conspicuously during the years of the economic depression. Several unemployment projects of similar nature have been successfully carried out on a small scale locally.

The Need for Recording Historic Buildings.

The plan I propose is to enlist a qualified group of architects and draftsmen to study, measure and draw up the plans, elevations and details of the important antique buildings of the United States. Our architectural heritage of buildings from the last four centuries diminishes daily at an alarming rate. The ravages of fire and the natural elements together with the demolition and alterations caused by real estate "improvements" form an inexorable tide of destruction destined to wipe out the great majority of the buildings which knew the beginning and first flourish of the nation. The comparatively few structures which can be saved by extraordinary effort and presented as exhibition houses and museums or altered and used for residences or minor commercial uses comprise only a minor percentage of the interesting and important architectural specimens which remain from the old days. It is the responsibility of the American people that if the great number of our antique buildings must disappear through economic causes, they should not pass into unrecorded oblivion.

In order to lay out a comprehensive program which will include a judicious selection of period, type and locality, I suggest that a general canvass of the structures erected between the earliest times and (say) 1860 be made. This would include the best examples of the succeeding styles followed on the Atlantic Seaboard and the adjoining States roughly grouped as "Jacobean," "Georgian," "Early Republic" and "Greek Revival." It would also include the remnants of Spanish Colonial culture scattered from Saint Augustine to Monterey. Special attention would be given to the early work of New Orleans and of Santa Fe.

Styles.

An important though largely untouched field for exact architectural recording is the Indian territory of the Southwest. Exact records should be made of such communal constructions as the Taos and Acoma pueblos, and the Zuni villages where mutations are fast encroaching upon the flavor of the native aboriginal style. Recording of some of the highly perishable prehistoric remains such as the Pueblo Bonita (New Mexico) should be included. If it could be worked out, the Russian remains of Alaska should be included in this program.

Neglected Subjects.

The list of building types should be almost a complete resume of the builders' art. It should include public buildings, churches, residences, bridges, forts, barns, mills, shops, rural outbuildings, and any other kind of structure of which there are good specimens extant. The lists should be made up from the standpoint of academic interest rather than of commercial uses. The largest part of individual effort spent so far in measuring antique buildings and recording seems to have been given with an eye to adapting historic styles to modern commercial architectural practice. Much good has certainly resulted from this motive, though whole classes of structures have been neglected. The Seventeenth Century American house, because it is not well adapted to modern use, has been frequently passed aside. Bridge designers, because they have not sensed the possibility of employing the distinct early American style, have neglected a subject of absorbing interest.

Other structures which would not engage the especial interest of an architectural connoisseur are the great number of plain structures which by fate or accident are identified with historic events. The birthplaces of Presidents, statesmen, generals, inventors, and other important men belong to this class. Old mining settlements, such as Columbia in the Sierra Nevada or Central City in the Colorado highlands are the vanishing scenery of a colorful phase of our last century. For the

edification of future generations, why not make a complete record of one or more of these decomposing cities? The hewn log cabins of the early pioneers form another class of buildings which have been necessarily neglected as a subject for study by commercial architects.

Excavation of Ruins.

If proper archaeological supervision can be secured, it is conceivable that certain ruins might be excavated by common labor under this same general program. Projects could include such a wide variety of locality as Henricopolis, the Seventeenth Century settlement on the James River of Virginia; the Indian Mounds of the Middle West, and the prehistoric ruins of the Southwest.

Bibliography of Previous Work.

Due recognition would be made of the material of this nature which has been gathered in the past by individuals and public organizations. Many interesting buildings have been measured and photographed and quite a few of these have been published. It would be the duty of the executive organization of this program to see that effort is not wasted by duplicating work which is already available. While the efforts of the past have not been coordinated nationally, it should not require a great amount of time to ascertain through existing architectural and historical organizations what has been done. The actual employment program and the beginning of the program could be well under way during the reconnaissance of previous work.

The Executive Organization.

It is my belief that the executive functions of this suggested program could best be carried on by the Branch of Plans and Design of the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. That organization is a technical branch of a nation wide conservation bureau which has become closely identified with the preservation of historic sites and structures. A special section would be set up to administer this work and to compile the collected material. The present headquarters in Washington and San Francisco would be utilized and the staffs augmented for the period of this special program. A complete working library of the relatively few books on American architecture would be assembled. This organization would prepare the specifications for the drawings to insure uniform and readable sheets and prepare the file for final deposit in the Library of Congress alongside of the related material now there. It would administer the activities of field parties through the State organizations. It would cooperate directly with the National Advisory Committee in the guidance of the general

program.

National Advisory Committee.

The National Advisory Committee would consist of seven members -- four from the architectural profession who have been especially identified with research in American architecture and three from civic and patriotic organizations. The former would be named by the American Institute of Architects and the latter by the Director of The Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. The members of this committee would receive no compensation, but would be reimbursed for their transportation and subsistence during the several sessions in Washington.

State Board Offices.

The organization of the executive work would be divided by states, with a branch office for each division. In certain areas one office might serve several states. In the older and larger states more than one office would be desirable. A total of sixty offices in the estimated need. In states with two or more offices, the central activity will be carried on through one of them designated to senior rank. The personnel of each office will consist only of one architect of Associate grade, and one or two clerk-stenographers. Space would be secured in government buildings or free of charge elsewhere through the cooperation of local agencies. It would be the duty of these offices to enlist the personnel, furnish the drafting supplies, assign the work, and cooperate with the State Advisory Committee.

State Advisory Committee.

The State Advisory Committee would consist of three members from the Architectural profession within the State and two from local civic, patriotic or historic groups. All would be persons previously identified with similar work. It would be the duty of this committee to assemble a list of the available measured and published drawings of historic buildings of its State and to furnish a priority list of projects to be undertaken.

The Enrolled Man.

The employed men would be recruited entirely from the Architectural profession and organized into squads of two, four and six men, according to the size of the project and economy of transportation. The ranking member of the groups would be known as the Squad Leader and would be directly in charge, reporting to the State Executive. Each man would furnish his own drawing board, T-square, etc., though supplies such as paper, pencils and erasers would be furnished free.

The number of squads would vary greatly in each area.

Squad Organization.

Each squad would travel about the State measuring the buildings in order of their priority, drawing up their notes before proceeding to the next project. Subsistence at the rate of $2.50 per working day would be furnished while in travel status and transportation would be paid for by a mileage reimbursement of four cents per mile for privately owned vehicles -- one per squad. It is suggested that squad leaders be paid at the rate of $1.10 per hour and regular enrollees $.90. This wage is based on the assumption of the 30-hour week and the use of trained and experienced men who would, in normal times, be capable of earning a considerably greater wage.

Photographic Work.

To complete the data secured by this project there should be a supplementary program of photographic work. It is proposed to enlist the services of unemployed photographers at the rate of $1.00 per hour. Each photographer would furnish his own camera (a uniform size, probably 5" x 7") with the film provided free by the Government. He would be reimbursed a standard rate (say 10¢) for developing each negative and making one print and turning the same over to the Government. This arrangement will tend to distribute the money farther than any other low cost arrangement.

Historical Data.

It is anticipated that the historical data incident to the buildings studied may be secured through local and State institutions and societies.

Only the briefest resumé of facts is necessary in each case and it does not seem necessary to build up an overhead for the purpose of getting data which is ordinarily obtained gratis. The small but comprehensive library mentioned will provide for a great deal of it.

Publication.

No funds are requested for the publication of the results. Considerable time will be necessary to classify the results and the advantages to be obtained can be demonstrated later in applying to Congress for a special appropriation. A fund for blueprinting is, however, provided for in the estimate.

Supplies.

The following materials would be furnished free to the enrolled men: Tracing paper, pencils, erasers and moulding combs (for recording full size profiles). The enrolled men would be expected to provide their own drawing boards, T-squares, triangles, rules, scales, tapes, curves, and other materials which they can be reasonably expected to have already in their possession. Our cost estimate shows that only an average of $3.00 per man for supplies will be necessary for the two months period.

Cost Estimate.

A rough calculation indicates that about $450,000 would be needed to finance the activity of 1,000 enrolled men. This would be paid out by groups as follows:

Enrolled men	$341,000
State Executive Groups	96,000
National Advisory Board	1,000
National Executive Group	10,000
	$448,000

This sum would be disbursed to a payroll of 1200 persons and should be an important factor in relieving unemployment in the profession.

The length of time required to initiate this program depends entirely upon the freedom with which personnel can be set up. If appointments and purchases can be made outside of the usual slow channels, the program could be well under way by December 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Peterson.

Approved_____(date)
Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

CEP:TJT

C O P Y

November 18, 1933.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 17, 1933, considered the memorandum of November 13, on the subject of "The relief employment under the Civil Works Administration of a substantial number of the architectural profession in a program recording interesting and significant specimens of American architecture". The Commission expressed their interest in the work proposed and believe it would furnish employment to a number of architects and architectural draftsmen if funds for the proposed research work could be made available.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Parks, Buildings
and Reservations,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F-1

C O P Y

November 20, 1933.

Dear Captain Whitehurst:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 17, 1933, considered the drawing which you handed to Mr. Caemmerer, for a proposed widening of F Street which takes off a portion of the southeast and southwest corners of the square of the Old Patent Office building and takes out a row of trees. The Commission inspected the grounds and are unanimously of the opinion that the benefits to be derived by widening F Street by about three and one-half feet would not justify the taking out of a row of growing oak trees on the south side of the building.

The Commission would have no objection to your taking off a small part of the southeast and southwest corner of the square as indicated by pencil lines in the drawing.

The matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Nolen of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who suggests that the design be resubmitted to the Coordinating Committee for further consideration.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Captain H. C. Whitehurst,
Director of Highways,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G

C O P Y

November 20, 1933.

Sir:

The blue prints of the design for the single arch bridge to connect the Agriculture Department Buildings, which you submitted with your letter of November 4, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 17, 1933. I am pleased to inform you that the Commission approved the design.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Lawrence W. Robert, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

COPY

November 20, 1933.

My dear Colonel Schulz:

Thank you very much for the copy of your booklet on Belvoir, which I received today. I shall have real pleasure in reading it.

The Commission of Fine Arts enjoyed the visit to Fort Humphreys last Friday and were much pleased with the progress of the construction work under way.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Colonel Edward H. Schulz,
Commandant,
Fort Humphreys, Virginia.

EXHIBIT I

COPY

November 21, 1933.

Dear Kendall:

After a great deal of discussion and due perhaps to the disappearance of your friend, the military engineer, and some others, we have now got the cross axis ending in the two circles definitely settled.

The work of clearing Columbia Island from underbrush is progressing satisfactorily and that island is now being roughly graded and put into a more presentable shape.

The Commission of Fine Arts have had a number of discussions in regard to the plaza and incidentally have questioned whether it might be possible and altogether better to have all the traffic, including the funerals, make the turn which traffic ordinarily will take around the central plaza. It is felt that this might be better than to use the posts and chains.

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission also felt that perhaps you might wish to give some real study to the plaza itself with the idea of enlarging it somewhat and giving it a more definite and in a way a stronger form.

Will you consider these matters and let me know how you feel about them?

Cordially,

(Signed) Charles Moore.

Wm. Mitchell Kendall, Esq.,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT J